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www.house.gov/shuster

Contact: Jeff Urbanchuk, Press Secretary

(202) 225-2431

(202) 593-1040 cell

(202) 225-2486 fax

jg.urbanchuk@mail.house.gov

Shuster Announces \$500,000 in Federal Funding for the Franklin County Emergency Services Alliance

Washington, D.C. – This morning, **Congressman Bill Shuster** joined local community leaders and elected officials at the Franklin County Courthouse to announce federal funding to assist the Franklin County Emergency Services Alliance purchase interoperable communications equipment.

Shuster announced \$500,000 he secured in the Omnibus Appropriations Act to assist first responders in Franklin County purchase and upgrade interoperable communications equipment.

The addition of this new equipment will allow Franklin County first responders to coordinate more effectively within their communities as well as communicate with their federal counterparts in times of emergency in nearby metropolitan areas like Washington, DC, and Harrisburg.

“The switch to interoperable communications equipment has been a priority since the 9/11 Commission released its recommendations to Congress,” Shuster said. “It is essential that first responders have the capability to communicate, plan and execute rescue operations with other emergency service agencies whether they are from the next county over or from the other side of the country.”

“For many emergency service departments, the cost of replacing existing communications equipment has been too high to do at once,” Shuster added. “I am pleased to have been able to work with the Franklin County Emergency Service Alliance and Senators Specter and Casey to help bring our first responders closer to the goal of upgrading all of their communications equipment.”

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